

Statement on E. Pakistan

BY PHILIP E. HOFFMAN

(Pres. American Jewish Committee)

The American Jewish Committee, which since its inception has been dedicated to the preservation of the human rights of all people, deplores the bloodshed and open conflict that has erupted in East Pakistan. We are aware that there are conflicting claims in the area, claims of national self-determination, of territorial integrity, of freedom from oppression. The claims on both sides are grounded on legal and moral principles. The issues do not lend themselves to simple statements of where justice lies.

But in the concern for these claims, the overriding issue of human rights must not be overlooked. These are human beings - men, women and children - who are in the midst of gunfire. Their needs must be our first consideration.

We call for a determined effort by the United Nations and by all the peoples of the world to insure that the principles of human rights guaranteed in the Charter of the United Nations are observed. Further, we call on the United States Government in our best humanitarian tradition, to intensify and increase its efforts to alleviate the suffering, the illness, and the disease which are the inevitable concomitants of warfare.

The conflict in East Pakistan has a background of centuries of conflicts between different ethnic and religious peoples and is complicated by layers of deep emotion. We would hope that men and women of good will, of reason and understanding, can find a way out of this perplexing human problem without dragging two great peoples into an all-out war. We know that a resort to violence can only exacerbate an already difficult situation, rather than helping to bring about a solution. Above all, as Jews, we hold the sacredness of human life to be paramount, and call on all men who seek justice -- statesmen, religious leaders and common folk alike -- to direct their best efforts to ending the conflict and preventing its escalation.

INTEGRATION SUCCESSFUL IN VEGAS

Black enrollment is up in predominantly white schools and the number of white volunteers in Westside prestige schools is nearly double last year's figure as the Clark County School District begins the third year of its voluntary elementary school integration program.

As of Friday, a hand count of students showed 1,805 blacks in predominantly white schools, and between 1,400 and 1,450 of them were volunteers being bussed from their neighborhoods. Last year 1,250 black volunteers were enrolled in about 40 elementary schools.

C.V.T. Gilbert Prestige School had 300 white volunteers, and at Jo Mackey students were coming in to register "at such a pace that we don't have time

to stop and count them," according to a registration official at the school.

At least part of the growth in the voluntary effort is explained by programs like a "black parents' orientation night" staged by William E. Ferron Elementary School in Paradise Valley. The object, according to principal Jack Dailey, was to "give black parents and students a chance to look us over, see what we had to offer, then decide whether they wanted to attend school here." As a result of the program, 24 students opted for Ferron.

But a "good educational experience," as one school official puts it, is the main ingredient behind the growth in the volunteer program. "If volunteer students and parents had a good experience at their new school last year, they are back this year, and they have spread the word to their friends," he said.

Apparently for most students the experience was good. Principals of Westside schools report very few integration students returning to their home schools and one C.V.T. Gilbert mother says "we would roll our kids like hoops if necessary to get them to that school."

Students volunteering in the integration program are provided bus transportation and special educational programs in their new school. This means prestige programs in Westside schools and numerous enrichment programs in predominantly white schools with large groups of black volunteers.

HANUKKAH Greetings



Howard W. Cannon
U.S. Senator

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CANNON FOR ISRAEL

WASHINGTON -- Nevada Senator Howard Cannon joined sponsoring a Senate resolution calling for the shipment of F-4 jet aircraft to Israel in order to maintain the arms balance in the Middle East.

"Continuing Soviet shipments of advanced weaponry and the presence in Egypt of some 20,000 Soviet personnel including combat pilots underscore the immediate need for supplying Israel the means with which to deter Soviet and Arab miscalculations leading to renewed hostilities," Cannon said.

The resolution underscored that the Soviet action "constitutes a grave threat to peace in the Middle East, prejudicial to the vital interest of the United States."

The resolution also called upon the United States to oppose any attempts at the United Nations to alter the meaning and effect of Security Council Resolution 242 of November 22, 1967, which states that any peace treaty must include secure and defensible borders.

"Serious negotiations leading to durable peace settlement are highly unlikely as long as the Arab states hope eventually to defeat Israel militarily," Cannon said.

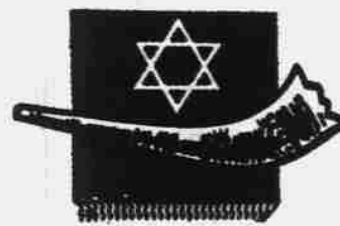
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